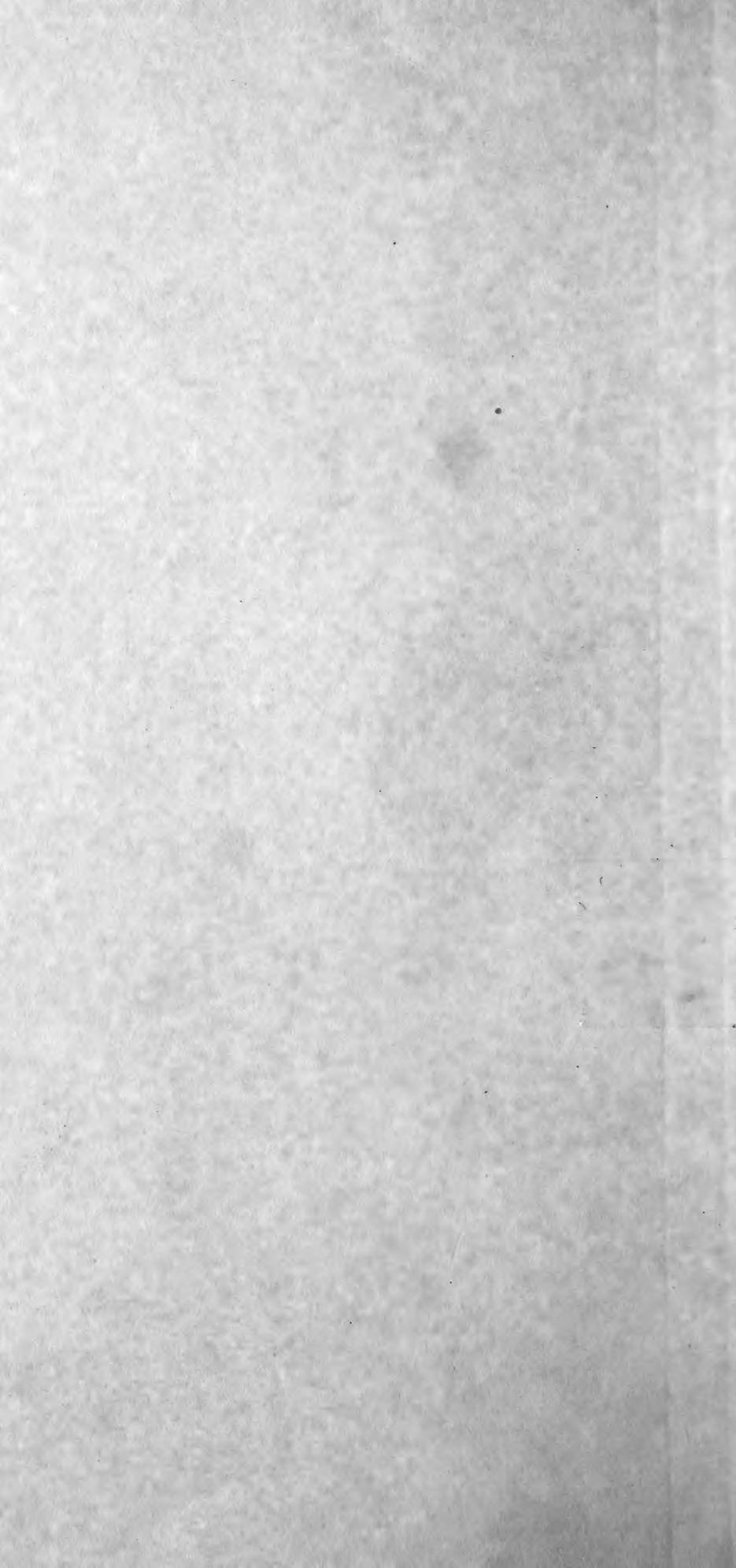


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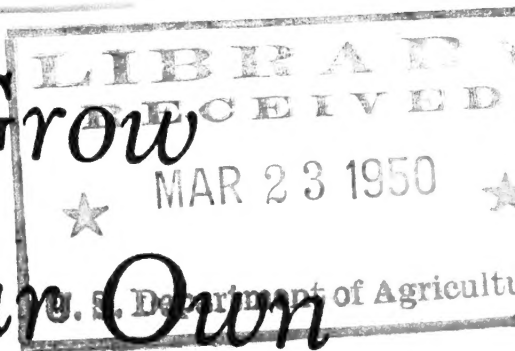


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Grow
Your Own



Herbs



The Fosters

LAUREL HILL HERB FARM

Falls Village

Conn.

Don't Start the Hard Way

We have separated our seed list into four sections this year in order to provide a planting guide for the amateur and experienced grower. The *Easy-to-grow* annuals and *Hardy Perennials to Sow Outdoors* will seldom fail the beginner if planted directly in the garden in friable soil and kept moist until the first sprouts appear. However, even these seeds are not magic and they must not be covered so deeply that the life in the plant is exhausted before it begins to grow.

A good rule to remember is to cover to a depth of twice but not more than four times the diameter of the seed.

Biennials or Annuals requiring Special Care call for a greater patience in planning ahead and transplanting so that they may be ready to give a good display at the proper time.

Hard-to-Start Perennials challenge the gardener's skill in starting seeds in flats, using sterile medium such as shredded sphagnum moss over soil in which to sow the seed to prevent damping off before the seeds get a good start.

We hope that this novel arrangement may help to avoid disappointment to hopeful hearts who might otherwise start with the most difficult seeds because they have more familiar names. In any case, we cannot be responsible for the crop, etc. which is the usual terms that all members of the American Seed Trade adhere to.

LAUREL HILL HERB FARM

FALLS VILLAGE,

CONN.

Easy-to-Grow Annuals



Seedling
plants of
Ambrosia
(left)
Basil
(right)



Ambrosia

Chenopodium Botrys

15¢ pkt.

Sweet-smelling plumes of feathery, golden-green blossoms are lovely in bouquets and may be dried for winter arrangements, hung in bunches in the kitchen or used for perfuming linen. Sometimes called Feather Geranium and Jerusalem Oak because the young leaves are bronze-colored and oak-leaf shaped. Broadcast fine seed early in the spring. Ambrosia takes a while to germinate but once you start it, you'll be able to set self-sown plants out where you want them every year.

18 inches. Sun or part shade.

Sweet Basil

Ocimum basilicum

10¢ pkt.

All the aroma and savor of a sun-drenched herb garden seems to be embodied in its bright, glossy green leaves. Cut the tips before the white-whorled flower spikes develop and dry in bunches or on screens in the shade. Use it fresh first, of course, with peas, in salads, on tomatoes. Though the first frost hits all the Basils, they make up for their tenderness by their versatility. Sow seed when you put in the first sweet corn. Won't germinate in cold earth; needs warmth add ample moisture. All of the Basils transplant easily.

2½ feet. Sun.

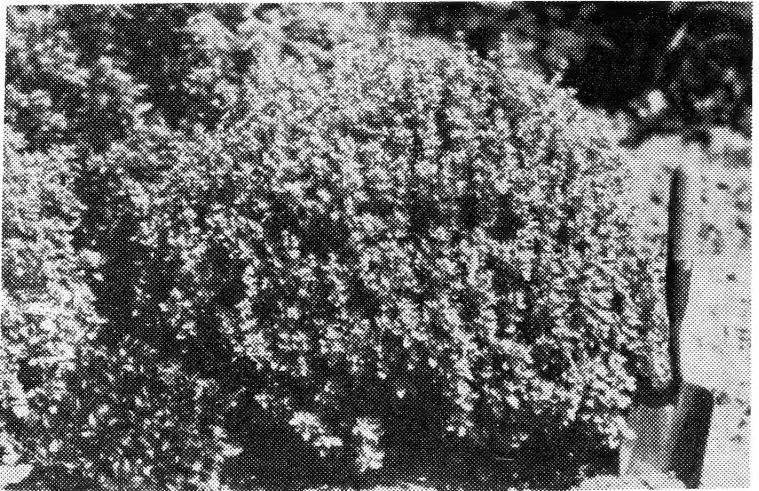
Bush Basil

Ocimum minimum

25¢ pkt.

A dwarf, rounded, imitation of miniature Boxwood. It is becoming more popular than Sweet Basil for its dual purpose as a border plant and seasoning herb. Leaves are full-flavored and plentiful for clipping to dry or to use green in salads. When using it as an edging, start seed in a flat and set the best shaped plants, saving the rest for culinary use.

12 inches. Sun



Well rounded plants of Bush Basil

Lemon Basil

Ocimum basilicum, var.

20¢ pkt.

The choicest Basil for cooking because the warm, clove-like Basil flavor has an overtone of lemon. The fruity fragrance and piquant taste endear Lemon Basil to the cook as well as the collector of scented leaves for sachets. Goes well with tomato juice, salad and vegetables. Seeds must never dry out after planting. Cover with sifted soil and shade with burlap until germination starts. Matures earlier than Sweet Basil.

2½ feet. Sun.

Purple Basil

Ocimum B. var. purpureum 25¢ pkt.

Flower arrangers favorite for focal points, the deep purple leaves and pink flowers are long lasting in water. Steep the leaves in white vinegar and watch it become a sparkling ruby shade with a delicious Basil flavor for use in French dressing and marinade. The foliage color is better where there is full sun and lean sandy soil. Japanese beetles seem to overlook this variety. 2½ feet. Sun.

Borage

Borage officinalis 15¢ pkt.

"I, Borage, bring thee courage" - Who wouldn't feel a rise in spirits at the sight of the heavenly-blue, star-shaped blossoms which may be candied or floated on beverages? If the seed is sown in the strawberry bed after the first spring weeding, the berries will be bigger from the shade of Borage's leaves. Plant some in the herb garden and in the flower border. You'll want to cut it for arrangements as well as for summer coolers. Thin but do **not** transplant. 3 feet. Sun or shade.

Coriander

Coriandrum sativum 10¢ pkt.

Nobody could like the smell of the leaves but the round, brown seeds develop a pleasant spiciness when ripe which makes them useful for hot breads and cookies. One of the first annuals to bloom, the umbels of pinkish blossoms look pretty in a mass. You can't fail with Coriander if you collect the seeds as soon as they pull off the umbels easily after they have turned brown. Sow where plants are to remain. 2 feet. Sun.

.Corn Salad

Valerianella olitoria 15¢ pkt.

The French call it *Mache*, the Germans *Felt Salat* and both rave about it but it seems a lot of picking for a little eating to us. Can be sown in mid-summer for a fall and winter greens. 12 inches. Sun.

Garden Cress

Lepidium sativum 15¢ pkt.

Fast growing, peppery, frilly Cress that is ready for thinning and eating like Watercress in three to four weeks. Sow early and often and eat when young and tender. 18 inches. Sun or part shade.

Dill

Anethum graveolens 10¢ pkt.

If you grow cucumbers and like Dill pickles, plant two or three times during the summer to have a supply of green leaves for garnishing and seasoning as well as plenty of flower heads for the pickle crock. 4 feet Sun.

Fennel

Foeniculum vulgare var. *dulce* 10¢ pkt.

Big, bulbous-stalked Finocchio can be eaten raw, like celery, or cooked and served with butter or Hollandaise. Usually planted in the fall for late out-of-the-garden eating. Ready for picking in 60 days.

2½ feet. Sun.

Curly Parsley

Petroselinum hortense 10¢ pkt.

Prettiest garnish; often used as a border in part shade. Allow several weeks for the seed to come up. Mixing it with Radish seed and eating the radishes as the Parsley is first showing is a good cure for impatience. Goes to seed the second year. A biennial. 2½ feet. Sun or part shade.

Flat-leaved Parsley

Petroselinum latifolium 10¢ pkt.

Rich in vitamins A and C. Should be chopped fine for full flavor in cooking. Nutritious substitute for oranges in summer. Leaves are flat and roots and plants larger. 3 feet. Sun or part shade.

American Pennyroyal

Hedeoma pulegioides 25¢ pkt.

This is the native American Pennyroyal. A superior, bushy garden variety which does well in sun or part shade. Pennyroyal has long been used as an insect repellant, particularly to discourage fleas. Broadcast fine seed as early as possible; self-sows. Can be transplanted any time. Sun or part shade.

Roquette

Eruca sativa 15¢ pkt.

Another salad green whose virtue is its rapidity in growing. Strong mustardy flavor we think unpleasant. 2½ feet. Sun.

Red Orach

Atriplex hortensis 25¢ pkt.

Looks like wild Lamb's Quarters but with blood-red leaves. Sow seed early in spring, cover very lightly. 3 feet. Sun.

Summer Savory

Satureja hortensis 10¢ pkt.

An indispensable seasoning herb. Narrow leaves are so deliciously flavored that Savory has become a synonym for good eating. Makes a happy change from Thyme in soups, poultry dressing and is called *bohenkraut* or bean herb for its way with green beans. Thin but don't transplant.

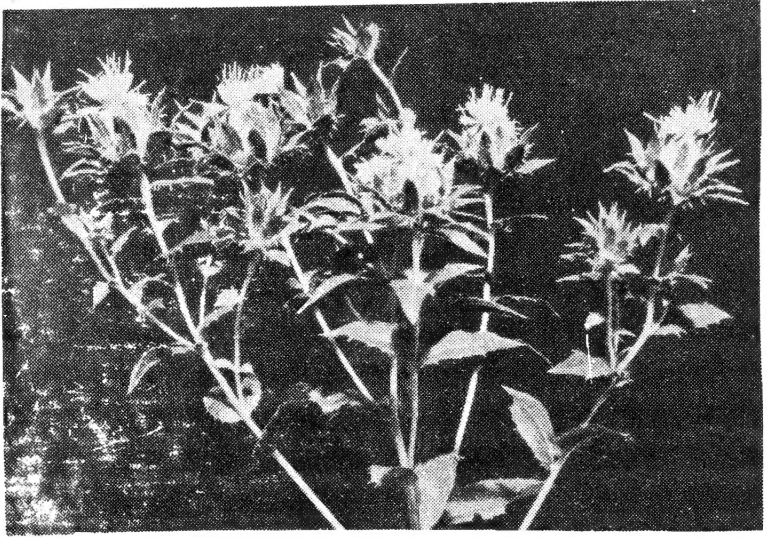
18 inches. Sun.

Safflower

Carthamus tinctorius

15¢ pkt.

Thistle-like orange flowers are dried and sold as a substitute for Saffron. Not a bit pretty in the garden. 3 feet. Sun.



Safflower in blossom

Sweet Wormwood

Artemisia annua

25¢ pkt.

Towering, Christmas tree-like herb with finely-cut, very sweet scented foliage. Yellowish panicles of bloom ripen to scatter many seeds about the garden but volunteers are easily organized the next spring. Yields lots of material for sachets as the fragrance is long-lasting. Cover seed very lightly and thin or transplant. 18 in. apart. 5 ft. Sun or part shade

Biennials or Annuals Requiring Special Care

Anise

Pimpinella anisum 15¢ pkt.

One of the annual herbs grown for seed to use in flavoring cookies and hot breads. Needs long growing season; sow in warm ground and thin but **do not** transplant. Hill up slender stems when plants begin to bloom. 18 inches. Sun.

Caraway

Carum carvi 10¢ pkt.

Takes two seasons to mature seeds. Sow in spring or fall. Lovely umbels of white flowers in May of second year. Likes clay soil; needs same clean culture and thinning as carrots. Home-grown seeds have a superior flavor. 3 feet. Sun or part shade

Chervil

Anthriscus cerefolium 15¢ pkt.

An annual which can be grown as a biennial by sowing seed twice, in spring and again in late summer. Needs moist soil, rich in humus. The best plants have appeared on compost heaps. Scatter seeds on top of ground as early in the spring as possible. Thin but **do not** transplant. Needs partial shade. Once started, self-sows freely if the soil is rich and friable. 2 feet. Part shade.

Fennel Flower

Nigella sativus 25¢ pkt.

The culinary sister to Love-in-a-Mist has black seeds which are tasty as poppy seeds on rolls. Plant in good soil; in full sun and thin but **do not** transplant. Curious blue-green flowers 18 in. Sun.

Flax

Linum usitatissimum 15¢ pkt.

Annual Flax which produces linseed and linen fibre. Sow thickly in early spring. Needs damp, heavy soil. 3 ft. Sun.

Sweet Marjoram

Majorana hortensis 15¢ pkt.

One of the *Fines Herbes* used with eggs, meat and spaghetti sauces. Really a tender perennial but is grown as an annual in the North. Sow fine seeds in flats or very shallow drills in the garden, covering lightly with screened soil. Needs even warmth to sprout without loss by damping-off fungus. Most easily handled by starting in house or cold frame. (See *The Herb Grower*, Feb. 1950) Can be cut for drying from August to October if plants are set out from frame in April 12 inches. Sun.

Mignonette

Reseda odorata 20¢ pkt.

Very fragrant, old-fashioned annual which likes cool weather and partial shade. Sow early in spring where plants are to remain. Blooms freely in good soil.

18 inches. Part shade.

Perilla

Perilla frutescens, var. *crispa* 15¢ pkt.

Lovely mahogany-colored, ruffled leaves useful in bouquets and for contrast to gray *Artemisias* in the herb garden. Hard seeds take a long time to germinate. May be transplanted to stand 18 inches apart. Needs same culture as Basil. 3 ft. Sun.



Clary Sage

Salvia sclarea

25¢ pkt.

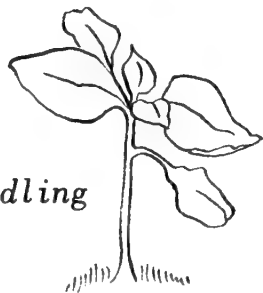
Striking looking biennial with heart-shaped hirsute leaves and tall spikes of blue and white blossoms surrounded by pinkish bracts. Penetrating perfume becomes stronger as flowers fade. Sow seed in spring for blossoms the following season. Set out two feet apart. Will sometimes remain perennial if seed heads are cut off. 4 feet. Sun.

Sesame

Sesamum indicum

20¢ pkt.

Also known as Bene, a semi-tropical annual with bell-shaped pinkish flowers followed by furry seed capsules which split open. Sow seed where plants are to remain. Rich soil, after the apples are in blossom. 3 feet. Sun.



A Sesame seedling

Wallflower

Cheiranthus Cheiri

25¢ pkt.

Annual variety of mixed colors similar to Stock in habit and sweet scent. Sow seed early in flats and transplant to garden. Takes 5 months to mature.

1½ feet. Sun or part shade.

Golden Woad

Isatis tinctoria

20¢ pkt.

Ancient dyers herb of the Mustard family. A biennial which must be sown in spring or fall for flower the next May. Bright panicles of yellow bloom are very showy. 5 feet. Sun or part shade.

Hard-to-Start Perennials



Angelica

Angelica Archangelica 25¢ pkt.

Sow seed as early as possible in flats or in the garden. Transplant young plants to stand three feet apart. Takes three years to flower but some leaves and stalks may be used for candying and syrup the second season if they make good growth in moist shady location. Cut off flower stalks down to the ground before buds open to keep plants perennial. 6 feet. Shade.

Anise-Hyssop

Agastache anethiodora 20¢ pkt.

Good bee plant with spikes of blue flowers second year. Needs cool, moist conditions to germinate. Freezing hastens the process. 3 feet. Sun or part shade.

Lemon Balm

Melissa officinalis 15¢ pkt.

Pleasantly lemon-scented Mint-like plant that grows well in sun or shade. Fine seeds germinate readily in open ground if season is moist. Shade the young plants until they are large enough to set two feet apart. 2 feet. Sun or shade.

Lavender Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa 15¢ pkt.

A lovely lavender-flowered wildling of New England roadsides prized also as a garden flower. Sow in flats or seed bed, shade the first summer. Withstands full sun and light sandy soil if there is sufficient lime mixed with it.

3 feet. Sun or part shade.

Catnip

Nepeta cataria 15¢ pkt.

Though it will grow like a weed when once started, some people have a hard time growing Catnip from seed. Sow as soon as ground is open and transplant when young only. There is an old English belief that it will keep rats away if planted near a house foundation. Maybe the cats have something to do with it.

3 feet. Sun or part shade.

Sweet Cicely

Myrrhis odorata 25¢ pkt.

Should be called 'Patience Plant' because you must wait nine months for the seed to germinate. If this seems too long, just plant seeds in the fall in the garden and forget them until next spring. Young plants may be moved easily but roots of mature ones go down two or three feet. Worth all the trouble to get it started because it persists and even self-sows for years. A fragrant, white-flowered beauty for part shade. 2½ feet. Part shade.

Elecampane

Inula Helenium 25¢ pkt.

Another herb native to many parts of this country but quite effective in the garden. Likes wet places but will grow almost anywhere. Sow light seeds in flats and transplant to garden 3 feet apart.

3 feet. Sun or part shade.

Good King Henry

Chenopodium Bonus Henricus 25¢ pkt.

Bet you will want to grow this for the name. Of the spinach family but undistinguished in the garden or at the table. 18 inches. Sun or part shade.

English Lavender

Lavandula vera 25¢ pkt.

The true English Lavender of fresh, clean perfume and arresting gray foliage. Seeds need long, cool germination period. Best results have been obtained by sowing in open ground in November to germinate early in the spring. Keep cool and shaded in flats until sprouts appear if sown in spring. Not for the beginner because it takes time to come up and several years to produce many flower spikes.

2 feet. Sun.

Lovage

Levisticum officinale 25¢ pkt.

Looks like celery; tastes better than celery and is a hardy perennial which lives for many years. Sow in flats, keep moist and cool until germination begins; profits by fall-sowing too. Set out two feet apart in part shade, good soil. Leaves dry very well. 5 feet. Part shade.

Oregano

Origanum vulgare var. *viride* 50¢ pkt.

This is the pungent seasoning for Mexican and Italian dishes that, to our knowledge, was never available as seed in this country until we introduced it last year. Sow in flats like Sweet Marjoram and set out 12 inches apart. Not reliably hardy in the North. Blooms the first year but is usually cut for drying before it does so. The common Wild Marjoram, found naturalized in some parts of the country, has none of the rich, strong flavor of this *Oregano*. Many people have come to prefer it to Sweet Marjoram and it is a larger, more productive plant. 2 feet. Sun.

Rosemary

Rosmarinus officinalis 25¢ pkt.

Next to Lavender, Rosemary might be considered the best-known herb for fragrance and sentiment. Makes lovely shrubby plants which reach three to four feet in height and breadth when grown in tubs and wintered indoors. A tender perennial which is usually propagated by cuttings and flowers only on the previous year's growth. Very slow growing and difficult to start from seeds which must be sown in flats. Seedlings should be transplanted to smallest size pots as the roots should fill the pot before being moved. Can be set in the garden in pots for easy removal to the house in the fall. It is root tender and will winter over only if roots do not freeze.

3 feet. Sun.

Skirret

Sium sisarum 20¢ pkt.

Ancient pot-herb with pretty white flowers second year. Hardy and easily propagated by root divisions.

2½ feet. Sun or part shade.

Spotted Monarda

Monarda punctata 25¢ pkt.

Not-too-hardy native of southern states with yellow flowers spotted with purple and rosy bracts. Start in flats and set out in full sun, 18 inches apart. 2½ feet. Sun.

English Thyme

Thymus vulgaris 15¢ pkt.

Erect, broad leaved culinary Thyme which is usually propagated by root divisions. Sow seed in flats and transplant once before setting out. 12 inches. Sun.

French Thyme

Thymus vulgaris var. *fragrantissimus* 25¢

Narrow, gray leaves of more delicate flavor than English Thyme but not quite so hardy in heavy soil. Needs excellent drainage and frequent divisions; clean culture. Sow in flats or seed bed and transplant when large enough to handle. 12 inches. Sun.

Creeping Thyme

Thymus serpyllum 25¢ pkt.

Pungent carpeter used between paving stones because it likes the warmth and drainage of rocks over which to trail. Much easier to get started by taking root divisions but seed can be planted in flats and young plants set out from pots in midsummer. Hardy perennial with lavender flowers. Seed is very scarce. 6 inches. Sun.

Wormwood

Artemisia Absinthium 25¢ pkt.

Lovely gray-leaved herb especially suitable for flower arrangements and foliage contrasts in the garden. Fine seed may be sown outdoors but are usually started in flats. Likes some clay in the soil; makes good background plant for the herb garden.

4 feet. Sun or part shade.



Perennials to Sow Outdoors

Salad Burnet

Sanguisorba minor 15¢ pkt.

Forms pretty rosettes of picot-edged leaves which have a distinct cucumber flavor in salads. Ready to eat in 60 days; makes a neat edging for garden paths. Self-sows freely for long life even if old clumps die out because of the richness of the soil. Grown in the West as a forage crop on dry, sandy hillsides.

18 inches. Sun or part shade.

Chives

Allium schoenoprasum 15¢ pkt.

If you can't get a clump from the grocer or a friend, sow seed in vegetable garden. Next spring remove to herb garden and watch for lovely lavender flowers in May. Cut back after blooming and give side-dressing of fertilizer to have new shoots for snipping. 12 inches. Sun.

Bronze Fennel

Foeniculum vulgare 25¢ pkt.

A bronze-leaved beauty with all the sweet flavor of perennial Sweet Fennel. Sow where plants are to remain. If your season is short it may not flower until the second year but you can use the leaves for seasoning fish and salads. 5 feet. Sun.

Blue Flax

Linum perenne 20¢ pkt.

One of the loveliest perennial flowers with graceful narrow-leaved foliage which waves in the breeze and is topped by a constant succession of new blue flowers every day. Likes heavy clay.

2 feet. Sun or part shade.

Horehound

Marrubium vulgare 15¢ pkt.

Famous old cough remedy is made from an infusion of the leaves mixed with sugar syrup to make Horehound candy. Wrinkled, gray-leaved plants bloom the first year from seed sown right in the garden. Likes it hot and dry. Curving stems with fuzzy leaves are interesting in arrangements.

2 feet. Sun.

Hyssop

Hyssopus officinalis

Blue flowered Hyssop 15¢ pkt.

Pink flowered Hyssop 25¢ pkt.

White flowered Hyssop 25¢ pkt.

Sow seed in shallow drills very early and enjoy handsome spikes of blue, pink or white flowers long after frost the first year. Almost evergreen, hardy perennial with pungent, dark green foliage that can be clipped like a low hedge. A great bee plant because it blooms continuously from July until November and is very long lived.

2½ feet. Sun or part shade.

Lamb's Ears

Stachys lanata 25¢ pkt.

One of the best silver-leaved plants which gives arresting contrast to flower arrangements. Rosettes of woolly leaves spread laterally to fill in as a border for flowers or herbs. First-year plants grown from seed sown in the garden are very ornamental by late summer. Easily transplanted to stand 18 inches apart when mature. Lean, sandy soil. 18 inches. Sun.

Leek

Allium porrum 10¢ pkt.

For eating, grow in the vegetable garden but for interest in an *Allium* collection, let perennial Leek flower in the herb garden. 2½ feet. Sun.

Nept

Nepeta mussini

25¢ pkt.

Blue-flowered dwarf with Catnip-like leaves in miniature. Blooms freely in May and again sparsely in September. Also called Catmint for its aromatic qualities. Good edging plant for sun or shade.

12 inches. Sun or part shade.

Sweet Rocket

Hesperis matronalis

15¢ pkt.

Floriferous panicles of pink and lavender flowers which resemble a loose-flowering Phlox blooming in May. The scent of the blossoms seem stronger in the evening. Seed started this year will produce many flowers next spring. A colorful addition to the herb garden where it will do as well in sun or part shade.

3 feet. Sun or part shade.

Rue

Ruta graveolens

25¢ pkt.

Rich in romance and literary associations, Rue is ornamental in the garden and in bouquets. Blue-green leaves persist on woody stems until late winter and can be used in wreaths and arrangements with bright berries. Often kept clipped as a border or hedge. Flowers are curious but not showy, yellow and rather acrid smelling like the foliage. Can cause skin rash if handled in bloom. Sow in shallow drills.

2½ feet. Sun or part shade.



A Rue seedling

*Note two
Cotyledons
(first leaves)
and one
true leaf.*

Sage

Salvia officinalis

10¢ pkt.

Another indispensable seasoning plant which belongs in every herb garden for its pebbly gray leaves and blue blossoms in the spring. Sage will sometimes flower from seed the first year. Transplant seedlings to stand two feet apart; woody stems will soon fill in that distance. Can be cut for drying in August of first season.

2½ feet. Sun.

Sorrel

Rumex scutatus

15¢ pkt.

Early greens which give a sour piquancy to salad, soup and spinach. Sow seed where plants are to remain and cut off flower stalks as soon as they appear. Becomes somewhat bitter in midsummer but with fall rains a new crop of tender sword-shaped leaves develop. Thin to 18 inches apart.

3 feet. Sun or part shade.



Books for Beginners

It is Easy to Grow Herbs 50¢ postpaid

A practical illustrated handbook of herbs, full of valuable information on growing, drying and using herbs.

Sketches of plants in the seedling stage with first leaves and true leaves showing, aid in identifying seedlings and help in weeding. Many ideas for making *Gifts from the Garden* and full instructions for harvesting the sweet-smelling crop.

Making the Herb Garden 15¢ postpaid

Reprint of 8 page article in *The Herb Grower Magazine* with plan for a formal garden and photograph of the famous garden of Rosetta E. Clarkson at Salt Acres.



Cooking with an Accent \$2.00 postpaid
by Isabella Gaylord

The popular culinary editor of *The Herb Grower Magazine* has written the *Herb Grower's Cookbook* with a chapter for each of the important seasoning plants. She has also told something of their medieval use and lore. Around these tales and among the intriguing recipes she has woven her own wisdom and humor which is like an herb itself, pungent and piquant. Over 150 original but tested recipes in this 120 page book, decorated by clever drawings.

Herb Stamp



At the request of veteran herb gardeners who want to share their delight in herbs as a hobby with other people, we have designed and produced the HERB STAMP.

An attractively drawn herb motif combines the leaf patterns of the Rose Geranium, Thyme and Tarragon to create a picture in green and white. At the very top of the stamp in readable type appears the slogan

Grow What You Eat

and at the bottom the words
Herbs for Flavor

Herb gardeners have found these stamps useful for letters and packages but also use them on stationery, labels for home-made herb products and postal cards.

Printed in green, size one by one inch HERB STAMPS come in sheets of 25 priced at 50¢ for 100 stamps. A special price permits herb groups to purchase Stamps to sell for the benefit of their own projects.

Herb Stamps 4 sheets (100) for 50¢

We usually ship all seeds within 24 hours of receipt of your order and post card acknowledging your order is sent at the same time. However, since Seed Post may sometimes take two weeks on the way you might wish for more rapid delivery of your order. If you should wish faster transportation, include 3% extra for first class mail or 5% for air dispatch.

We suggest that you send the full cost of the order by cash, check or money order, whichever is most convenient for you. If your order is under \$1.00, postage stamps will be accepted as full payment. We prefer not to send any C.O.D. shipments since you would be charged extra for postage and collection by the post office.

We have tried to grow and ship only the very best seed. Each variety is carefully tested before shipment to be sure that you will receive seeds true to name and of the best germinating quality. However, as is common with all seedsmen, since we have no control over the method of planting after you have received them, nor over the weather during the growing season, we are responsible only to the extent of the purchase price of the seed.

We have given up shipping herb PLANTS since they do not well survive long distance transportation. We will be happy to recommend an herb plant nursery as near to you as possible.

Visitors are welcome but we hope that you will notify us ahead of time so that we can set aside time for your visit and send you directions for reaching us. We are well off the main highways and visitors have many times had trouble in finding us.

The Fosters

Falls Village

Conn.

Culinary Herbs

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